



THE CASE

Of *John Giffard* Gentleman,

Concerning the Iron Works in the Forest of *Dean*,
and Woods bought of the Honorable Committee
of the Revenue, by Authority of

PARLIAMENT.

THE Iron Works now in the Possession of Master *Giffard*, were in the late Wars, about five yeers since, all burnt down, except two. By Ordinance of Parliament bearing date the 27. day of *October*, 1645. all the Iron Mills, Forges, and Furnaces, with their appurtenances in the Forest of *Dean*, which lately before had been in the Occupation or Possession of Sir *John Winter*, either of his own Inheritance, or by vertue of any Grant from the Crown, or in the Tenure or Possession of any of his Tennants or Assigns, were as a Reward of his Service, given unto Colonel *Edward Massey*, sometime Governor of *Glocester*, and the Committee of the Revenue were authorised and appointed to Assigne unto the said Colonel and his Assignes, Wood fit for Fewel, for use of those Works, at reasonable and indifferent prices (Timber-Trees excepted).

By vertue of which Ordinance, and in confidence of the same, the Iron Works in that Forest, now in the Possession of Master *Giffard*, were built up again and repaired by him, wherein was expended at the least 1500 l. And shortly after, the said Colonel *Massey* for the sum of 1000 l. to him in hand, by the said Master *Giffard* truly paid, did bargain and sell unto him, all his stock of Iron, Wood, Coals, Cinders, Oar, Implements, and Utensils, to the proper use and behoof of him the said *Giffard* for ever. And the said Colonel *Massey* did at the same time also, grant unto him a term of five yeers then to come in the said Works, with all his Interests, Profits, and Benefits, in, and by the said Ordinance, during the term of which (almost one half is yet to come, and unexpired) the said Master *Giffard* hath had no Wood out of that Forest for use of those Works, without Order and Authority of the aforesaid Honorable Committee, delivered by their own Officers, and

hath duly paid for all such quantities as hath been sold and delivered unto him. He hath at present a very great stock of Coals at his several Works unspent, as also Iron, Oar, Cinders, and other Materials; besides great quantities of Wood which he hath bought of private men out of the Forest; the greatest part of which, is ready cut and corded, and some standing, which must be rid off their Lands, at peremptory days agreed upon. The whole stock unspent amounting to above 5000 l. For which stock, Master *Giffard* standeth now indebted to several persons above 3000 l. The said Wood and Coals will rot and spoyl, if the Iron Works should be pulled down and demolished, without some competent time given him to work out his stock, to the utter undoing of himself and his children, both in their Estates and Credits; which hath been, and is yet considerable in the place where he lives.

The said Master *Giffard*, and his Son, have faithfully served the Parliament, hazarded their lives, lost their blood and Estate, for asserting the Priviledges and Liberties of the Parliament, and Commonwealth of *England*, against the late Kings Army; Who at *Cirencester*, in the County of *Glocester*, for that cause, burnt, plundered, drove and carried away of his Corn, Cattle, Sheep, and other Goods, above Three thousand pounds worth; for which, he never yet received any satisfaction, nor any part of above 1200 l. due, and in arrear to him and his son, for their service done the Parliament, with a Troop of Horse, which himself raised without advance money, at his own charge. And since the Order of Parliament, and Command of the General, to stop the cutting any more Wood or Timber in that Forest, the said Master *Giffard*, his Workmen, and Servants, have in obedience to the same, cut no Wood or Trees there.

In tender Commiseration of the sad Condition of the said Master *Giffard*, by reason of the late Vote of the Honorable House, to demolish the Forest Works, occasioned by mis-information against him: Which Works were built and repaired as aforesaid, at his charge, and with his own proper moneys: The premises considered, his Petition and Humble Suit unto them is, That they will be pleased to grant him a yeers time from *Lady* day next, to work out his stock, whereby he may be enabled to pay his debts, and preserve his credit (which is more dear to him then his life) and he is ready and willing to be bound, that in the mean time, no Servant or Workman of his, shall cut or meddle with any of the Wood or Timber in the said Forest, for the use of his Works, in obedience to the Vote of the said Honorable House. And further humbly craves, That a Commission *ex parte*, or by consent, may be granted, really to examine the abuses and spoils of the Wood and Timber in *Dean* Forest, without partiality, by which, all parties may have legal proceedings; whereby it may plainly appear, who have been the great destroyers of that Forest, without giving any recompence or satisfaction for the same. And if thereby it shall appear, That the said Master *Giffard* is guilty of the Crimes suggested against him; he is ready and willing to submit to such punishment as the nature of his offence shall deserve; but hopeth, that he shall not be condemned and utterly ruined, before

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before Witnesses upon Oath, for Vindication of his innocency, may be heard, as well as any other that may pretend to accuse him.

And if any Objection shall be made, That if the Works be suffered to stand, though but for so short a time, as is before desired, to work out the stock; there will by that means, be further wast and spoil made of Wood and Timber in the Forest: The Petitioner hath answered that Objection before by offering to enter into Bond to the State, That in the mean time no such thing for his use shall be done.

All which is offered to the consideration of the Honorable Members, with submission to such further Order or Direction as shall in your Wisdoms and Justice be thought meet for relief of

Your most humble
and faithful Servant

John Giffard.